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No note of pessimism has been heard at any of the four sessions of our conference. There is a general consciousness that now, more than ever, we are called to co-operate in the spirit of Jesus Christ, so that no self-will or bitterness or impatience on our part shall cloud our vision or hinder us from seizing the opportunity which God is giving us to do His will in the world—waiting upon the Lord.

Our Christian Idealism is Confirmed.

This war, so far from indicating the futility of our plans and endeavors or the foolishness of Christian idealism, is demonstrating that the methods of brute force and of inconsiderate egotism are as unintelligent and inefficient as they are unchristian. We are witnessing the *reductio ad absurdum* of unchristian civilization, for peace is not to be secured by preparations for war (even if unchristian men compel their brothers in self-defense, and for the sake of sacred treaties, to make ready for war). Not that it is in the interests of peace to belittle the spirit of patriotism, but to Christianize it. Like our laws and our culture, our education and commerce and industrialism, so, too, our very patriotism must be pervaded by the mind of Christ, and be ready for the discipline of the Cross—the sign and symbol, not merely of brotherly love, but of international love, over against the shortsightedness and selfishness of individuals and peoples. As we disperse to our homes and fatherland, that is the message we are bringing from this conference, and it is first and foremost a call to international humiliation and prayer in the name and confidence of Christ. The time for men to prevent war is not when events are culminating, but far, far back, at the springs of human conduct—individual, national, and international. Let us see to it that henceforth “all our fresh springs are in God.”

The Harder Task of the Churches of Europe.

This is not the moment to dwell on the practical steps which may be taken by us all in common to promote peace among the nations. Some such steps will appear in the four resolutions which are to be published in due time by the international committee of our conference. Others will be disclosed afterwards. Meanwhile we desire to emphasize the fact that has been borne in on us by contact with the workers for the peace movement in England and Europe generally: that more problems than we Americans were aware of are on the shoulders of those who, under God, are now leading the churches of Europe, and we are grateful to our Heavenly Father for the skill and wisdom and self-control which, in this trying ordeal, have been vouchsafed to them. For five years previous to the formation of our Church Peace Union these, our brethren, on this, the eastern, side of the Atlantic have been paving the way for what is now our common task, and it is their actual knowledge of men and means in the different nations of Europe which made it possible for our first International Church Conference for the Promotion of Peace to be so widely and thoroughly representative.

The Hour of Our Opportunity.

We in America have much to contribute henceforth to the common cause, and by our freedom from en-

tangling alliances and from some traditions which in Europe are an inheritance, we may, if we are properly considerate, be able to do and say some things which Europeans cannot; but after our present privilege of communion with the delegates over here, we know and feel that there is a vast deal for them to do which would be beyond our power. Therefore the determination of our conference to rely on the international committee for guidance and for ultimate decisions from time to time—the resolution to “move all together when we move at all”—is a determination which we are sure will commend itself to our brethren in the United States. In the very midst of this internecine conflict of the leading nations of Europe there will be henceforth from each of them well chosen and skillful delegates to our international council, ready and able to contribute of their special experience and prayers to our common endeavors for the peace of the world and the Christianization of all mankind.

(Signed) E. R. Hendrix, *Chairman*; George William Douglas, William Pierson Merrill, Luther B. Wilson, Frederick Lynch, Charles S. Macfarland, *Secretary*.

LONDON, August 6, 1914.

Outbreak of the European War.

By Sidney L. Gulick.

At the very hour when the eighty delegates of the Church Peace Conference should have gathered for their first formal session they were in full flight for England on the last train from Constance, while on the date set for the Roman Catholic conference at Liège that city was repelling a furious attack from a German army, in which nearly 30,000 of the flower of the land were killed or wounded. But the Protestant conference was held, nevertheless, and was not in vain. Lovers of peace saw afresh the urgency of their cause. They realized in actual experience the truth of their utterance that civilization goes forward by credit and good will among men, not by brute force. At the first real suspicion of war all the customary conveniences of civilization—nay, even the necessities of life—vanished as if by magic. Railroads ceased to run. Tens of thousands of travelers were stranded in the midst of hostile lands. Banks closed, and not a cent of money could be had, though men might have thousands of dollars duly certified by their letters of credit. Postal and telegraph service and all hotels were entirely disorganized, and also every industrial enterprise, for the orders for mobilization at once withdrew from every establishment all the able-bodied men liable to military service. Millions of families were left without support, and have to look forward to the permanent loss of the bread-winners, for the fatal character of warfare today is known to all, surpassing that of any past age.

Famine at no distant date stares many parts of Europe in the face, widespread and fatal as no natural famine in Europe has ever been. Germany is surrounded by foes prepared either to attack her or at least to defend their neutrality with all their power. While the rulers of Germany apparently recognize no treaty obligations or solemn pledges of neutrality if they conflict with her interests, it may be well questioned

whether the responsible citizenship would justify such international perfidy.

Ominous to those who have eyes to see were the fields of ripening grain, many of them partly reaped, abandoned by the tillers to join the armies of destruction. Who will reap the crops and prepare the food needed by every family in the land, to say nothing of the armies? Already old men, women, and school children are ordered to the fields to reap the crops. But what can inexperience and weakness accomplish? . . .

Such were the sights that greeted our eyes as we gathered at Constance when the crisis was reaching its climax, and that we experienced as we fled on the last train that left Constance for Cologne. At every station were hundreds seeking in vain for passage. Soldiers everywhere dominated. Several refugees who took our train told of brutal scenes of murder and bloodshed which they had just witnessed on railway platforms when suspects protested or resented arrest. In all probability it will never be known how many were killed even without the formality of a court-martial in the days preceding the declaration of war. . . .

. . . On the eventful day in which England declared war on Germany and Germans attacked Liège, our conference held its one and closing session in London. It filled our hearts with anguish to think that thousands of troops we had seen hurrying to the front had been killed and wounded in that treacherous attack on neutral Belgium. By that deed, and what Sir Edward Grey described as Germany's "infamous proposal" in regard to France, Germany made hesitant England her bitter foe.

While the preachers of peace may seem to the world to have accomplished nothing and the peace conference to have been a monstrous fiasco, never before has the need of machinery for maintaining peace been so evident, and the incalculable disaster that has overtaken Europe will prove a mighty and drastic lesson, enforcing, as words never can, the eternal principles proclaimed by the preachers of peace. Disarmament has begun on a mighty scale. The nations will soon be calling for peace. This frightful war can hardly fail to advance the peace cause by a hundred years or more. The fallacies of "peace through readiness for war" and "peace preserved by armaments" have exploded with disastrous effects.

Personal Observations at the Opening of the War.

By Louis P. Lochner.

The observations on the first days of the terrible European war which follow are compiled from my diary of the eventful days that preceded my escape to America on a French liner. Let the reader remember that the conditions which I here attempt to depict were no doubt paralleled, and in many cases intensified, in Germany, England, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and Austria, where American travelers were caught just as unexpectedly as we.

It was on July 31 that our steamer, the "Philadelphia," put in at Cherbourg. We had been informed by wireless of Austria's ultimatum to Servia, but thought that this flurry would soon pass over. Imagine

my surprise when my steward handed me a letter from a friend, an officer in the German army with excellent connections at Berlin, containing the following:

"While I am heartily glad to learn of your coming, I cannot yet say whether or not you will find me at home. We are on the eve of either an European military movement (Waffengang) or a totally foul peace. In Russia and France strong revolutionary currents; in England virtually a civil war, our chances against the Slavs and the French are not bad."

After some uncomplimentary references to the "Servian assassins," the "proud Parisians," and the "overbearing Russians," the letter continues:

"For every hundred of German boys who, in the event of war today, will have to leave their lives *pro gloria et patria*, we shall, as conditions in Europe now are, have to sacrifice a thousand in the not far distant future—in other words, if peace, a foul peace such as the present, is to continue. For this reason people here are saying, 'For God's sake, let us have no more of this disgraceful yielding that was so foreign to Germans under the leadership of Bismarck.'"

The letter concludes with the admission that England may not want to join in the general fray, inasmuch as she may not consider this moment the psychological one for the "continentale Generalabrechnung" (the general balancing of accounts on the continent), but insists that Germany, Austria, and Italy will fight side by side.

I add no further comment to this letter than that it was dated July 28, before war had been declared between Austria and Servia.

This was the first intimation we had of the impending calamity, and yet the very thought of it seemed too stupendous for earnest consideration. I remembered that the author of the letter had spoken of this same "Generalabrechnung" in 1911, during the Morocco crisis. But the fact that at that time Germany had seen the folly of launching a European war gave me hopes that it was nothing more than the enthusiastic talk of one who has repeatedly assured me that no death would be more welcome to him than that on the field of battle in the service of his country.

Aside from this letter, there were no indications at Cherbourg of the cataclysm that was soon to engulf Europe. We read of the financial panic at Paris, Berlin, and London as a result of the Austro-Servian war, but saw in it merely another illustration of the internationality of the world today, and felt confident that this panic would induce the great powers to bring Austria and Servia to terms. Everybody in our ship's company, therefore, cheerfully boarded the special train for Paris. Even the reported scarcity of gold in Paris worried but few.

It was at the offices of the American Express Company early on the morning of August 1 that our eyes were fully opened to the world situation in which we found ourselves. Hundreds of Americans were standing in line, many women in tears, many a man near fainting from lack of food, for wherever he went the restaurateur refused to accept paper money in payment of accounts. Others were almost in hysterics because of their failure to secure return ocean passage, the liners of most companies having been canceled for the next ten days, pending further developments in the international situation. Among these were many